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SUBJECT: LEBANESE RESPONSE TO 2005 SUA PROTOCOLS DEMARCHE

REF: STATE 59097

On April 26, we delivered reftel demarche urging the signature and ratification of the two new protocols to the UN Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (SUA) and its related protocol on Fixed Platforms to Ghady El-Khoury, Head of the Americas Desk at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. El-Khoury promised to bring the issue of the 2005 SUA Protocols to the attention of Foreign Minister Fawzi Salloukh. El-Khoury told econoff that Lebanon, unfortunately, has a "lengthy process" for the ratification and signing of protocols. He said the bulk of work in the ratification process is done in committees. He speculated that the Foreign Relations Committee, the Public Works Committee, and the Law and Administration Committee would all need to approve the 2005 SUA Protocols before GOL signature and ratification.  
FELTMAN